

# Arkansas Department of Correction Recidivism Study

Findings From The **2013** Release Cohorts



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## Mission Statement

- ◆ Provide public safety by carrying out the mandates of the courts;
- ◆ Provide a safe, humane environment for staff and inmates;
- ◆ Provide programs to strengthen the work ethic;
- ◆ Provide opportunities for spiritual, mental and physical growth.

## Vision Statement

To be an honorable and professional organization through ethical and innovative leadership at all levels, providing cost efficient, superior correctional services that return productive people to the community.

## Core Values

- ◆ Honor
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Public Service
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Transparency

## Goals

- ◆ To maintain cost-efficient care and custody of all inmates.
- ◆ To provide appropriate facilities for inmates sentenced by the courts.
- ◆ To provide constructive correctional opportunities that will help inmates successfully return to their communities.
- ◆ To optimize inmate assignments in work programs.
- ◆ To attract and retain quality staff.
- ◆ Transparency.

# Study Overview

- ◆ The Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) is an agency of the State of Arkansas that operates adult correctional facilities. The ADC is also a core part of the criminal justice system and recidivism is one of the most integral concepts in criminal justice. Recidivism is the act of reengaging in criminal offending, after being released from a correctional facility. This study examines the recidivism rate of ADC inmates released in 2013 to determine how many of them were re-incarcerated (i.e., a recidivist) within three years of their release.
- ◆ The 2013 Recidivism Study is a continuation of the original 1997-1999 Study of Recidivism Addendums produced in subsequent years. This Report was prepared by the Arkansas Department of Correction Research and Planning Division and provides a retrospective review of the return rates of inmates released from custody in CY2013, as compared to prior years. The data for this research was obtained from the ADC electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS).
- ◆ Research suggests that three years represent a reliable and consistent ending (validation) point for tracking recidivism, where an inmate's first three years in the community represent the period of greatest risk for reoffending. Recidivism rates are calculated using the nationwide correctional standard timeframes of 6-, 12-, and 36-month follow-up periods.
- ◆ There is no single cause as to why one reengages in criminal activities, but when examining recidivism rates, there are many factors that influence recidivism that must be considered. For example, recidivism rates can be affected by the released inmate's inability to obtain employment, difficulty in finding a place to live, lack of support, impulsiveness, association with other criminals, transportation, personal characteristics such as age, gender, racial/ethnic groups, etc.
- ◆ The intent of this report is not to investigate *why* recidivism occurs nor infer causal connections between certain variables and continued criminal behavior. Rather, the data provided here should be interpreted as exploratory and descriptive in nature. Any substantive conclusions are the prerogative and subsequent responsibility of the reader.
- ◆ Unless otherwise noted, the number of releases reported reflects the number of unduplicated inmate releases (i.e., only inmates that released from ADC, returned, and were released again within the 2013 calendar year are counted more than once). There were 16 inmates who had multiple releases during 2013, accounting for 32 total releases.

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For previous years' recidivism reports, agency annual reports, statistical brochures, and more, go to:

**[adc.arkansas.gov/publications/reports-brochures-forms](http://adc.arkansas.gov/publications/reports-brochures-forms)**

# Highlights

- ◆ This study shows that the ADC's 3-year recidivism rate increased from 51.82% of those released during CY2012 to 56.50% of those inmates released during CY2013. This high volume is static of the increased number of parole revocations entering the ADC that started in 2013. The increased rate of parolee's returning to the ADC due to Technical Violations pushed the overall recidivism rate to 56%. An alternative to incarceration for Technical Violator's would have resulted in an overall recidivism rate of 45% for the 2013 Release Cohorts.
- ◆ The recidivism rate for inmates released on parole was 58.21% over three years, while inmates who discharged their sentence at ADC recidivated at a much lower rate of 24.39% (Table 2, pg.6).
- ◆ Of the 6,472 inmates released in 2013, 43.61% violated their parole and received a new sentence while 11.65% violated their parole due to a technical violation (Table 3, pg. 7).
- ◆ Overall, males exhibited consistently higher recidivism patterns than females. For the 2013 release cohorts, male inmates showed a three-year return rate of 57.65%, as compared to 48.21% for female inmates (Table 4, pg. 8).
- ◆ 57.20% of the 2,184 White inmates and 57.01% of the 1,366 Black inmates returned to prison three years after release. The recidivism rates for White and Black inmates have increased by 5.31% and 2.77% respectively from the previous year (Table 5, pg. 9).
- ◆ For those released in 2013, inmates ages 17 & under and between the ages of 18 -24 demonstrated the highest recidivism rates. This study shows that younger inmates are more likely to recidivate (Table 6, pg. 10).
- ◆ Table 10 displays 3-year recidivism rates by offense of incarceration in descending order by 3-year recidivism (pg. 15).
- ◆ Figure 6 delineates the average months out for inmates released in 2013 by age category. The average 2013 recidivist spent 13 months in the community before returning to prison (pg. 17).
- ◆ Figure 7 illustrates that prisoners who returned to incarceration did so within the first 17 months, accounting for nearly three-fourths of all the recidivism of the first 3 years.
- ◆ Recidivism rate by County of Conviction are depicted in Figure 8. Return rates per county are color-coded from lowest to highest (pg. 18).

*\*SB 260 of the 2013 Regular Session defines recidivism as a criminal act that results in the re-arrest, reconviction or return to incarceration of a person with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following the person's release from custody. This study does not include data regarding re-arrest due to such statistics was unavailable from Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC).*



# Overall Recidivism

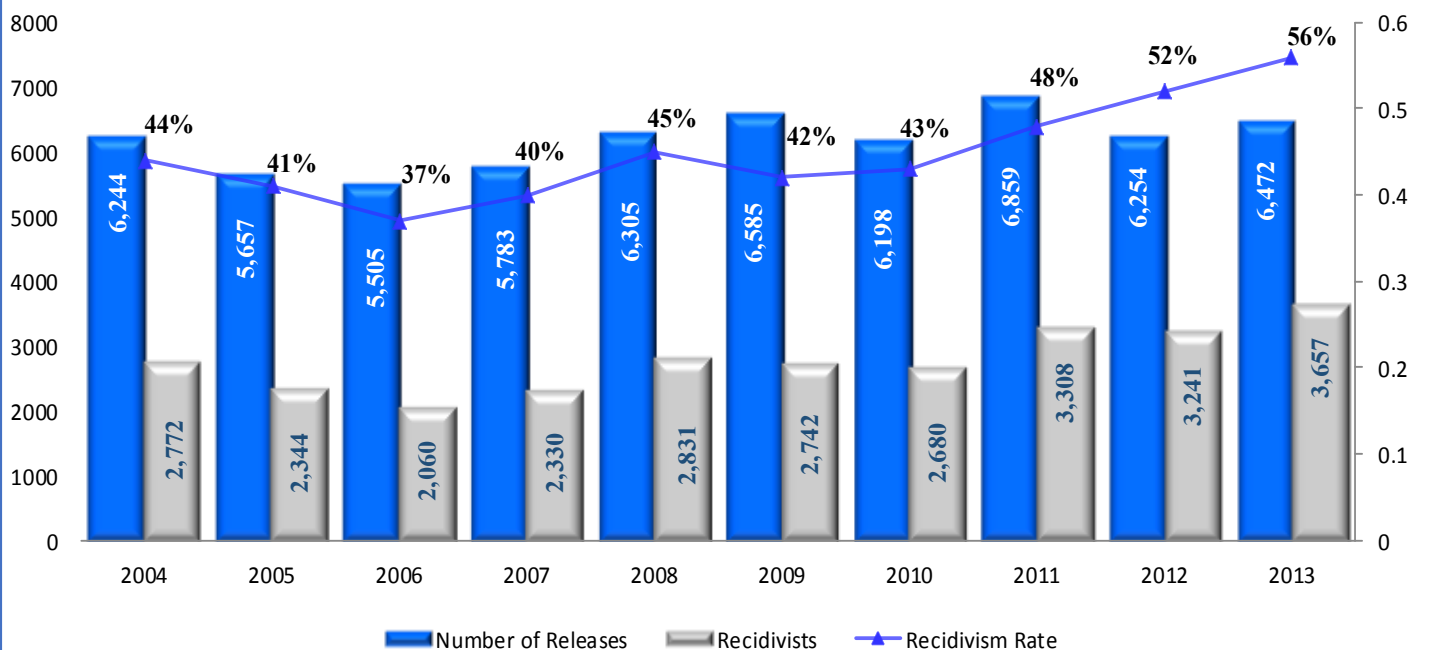
**Table 1** shows the overall 10-year trends in ADC recidivism rates. The post-release periods consist of six months, one year and three years from 2004 through 2013. In 2013, there were a total of 6,472 inmates released from ADC. Within six months of release, 14.35% of inmates returned to prison. Within one year, 30.36% of inmates returned and within three years, 56.50% had returned to prison. The average three-year recidivism rate for ADC, over the ten-year period was 45.21%.

**TABLE 1. RECIDIVISM RATES: 2004 - 2013**

Year	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Year Returns	1 Year %	3 Year Returns	3 Year %
2004	6,244	698	11.20%	1,377	22.10%	2,772	44.40%
2005	5,657	418	7.40%	1,036	18.30%	2,344	41.40%
2006	5,505	355	6.40%	943	17.10%	2,060	37.40%
2007	5,783	359	6.20%	881	15.20%	2,330	40.30%
2008	6,305	475	7.50%	1,275	20.20%	2,831	44.90%
2009	6,585	547	8.30%	1,343	20.40%	2,742	41.60%
2010	6,198	572	9.20%	1,213	19.50%	2,680	43.20%
2011	6,859	440	6.40%	1,200	17.50%	3,308	48.20%
2012	6,254	484	7.70%	1,406	22.48%	3,241	51.82%
2013	6,472	929	14.35%	1,965	30.36%	3,657	56.50%
<b>Average</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>8.53%</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>20.43%</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>45.21%</b>

**Figure 1** shows the overall trend for recidivism rates of inmates released between 2004 and 2013. Since CY04, a number of policy changes have impacted recidivism trends. ADC recidivism rates have fluctuated since 2004, with 2013 demonstrating the highest recidivism rate (56.50%) over the 10-year period.

**FIG. 1. 10-YEAR RECIDIVISM TREND**





## Recidivism by Release Type

**Table 2** demonstrates recidivism rates by type of release. ADC inmates are released back into the community by two ways: (1) parole with supervision, which is granted by the Parole Board and (2) discharge (completion of sentence). Over the past 10 years, parole has been the primary method of release for ADC inmates. In 2013, there were 6,144 inmates released by parole or another form of conditional release and 328 inmates discharged. Results indicate that within six months of release in 2013, 908 inmates or 14.77% of the inmates released on parole had returned, while 21 or 6.40% of the inmates discharged returned with a new sentence. For the 36-month follow-up period, parolees recidivated at a rate of 58.21%, while discharged inmates recidivated at a rate of 24.39%.

**Table 2. RECIDIVISM RATES BY RELEASE TYPE: 2004 - 2013**

Year	Release Type	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Year Returns	1 Year %	3 Year Returns	3 Year %
2004	Parole	6,075	693	11.40%	1,368	22.50%	2,735	45.00%
	Discharge	169	5	3.00%	9	5.30%	37	21.90%
2005	Parole	5,505	413	7.50%	1,025	18.60%	2,317	42.10%
	Discharge	152	5	3.30%	11	7.20%	27	17.80%
2006	Parole	5,358	350	6.50%	931	17.40%	2,020	37.70%
	Discharge	147	5	3.40%	12	8.20%	40	27.20%
2007	Parole	5,623	357	6.30%	872	15.50%	2,293	40.80%
	Discharge	160	2	1.30%	9	5.60%	37	23.10%
2008	Parole	6,160	469	7.60%	1,262	20.50%	2,808	45.60%
	Discharge	145	6	4.10%	13	9.00%	23	15.90%
2009	Parole	6,421	543	8.50%	1,329	20.70%	2,694	42.00%
	Discharge	164	4	2.40%	15	9.10%	34	20.70%
2010	Parole	6,047	568	9.40%	1,202	19.90%	2,646	43.80%
	Discharge	151	4	2.60%	11	7.30%	34	22.50%
2011	Parole	6,719	436	6.50%	1,190	17.70%	3,280	48.80%
	Discharge	140	4	2.90%	10	7.10%	28	20.00%
2012	Parole	5,940	464	7.81%	1,373	23.11%	3,154	53.10%
	Discharge	314	20	6.37%	33	10.51%	87	27.71%
2013	Parole	6,144	908	14.77%	1,928	31.38%	3,577	58.21%
	Discharge	328	21	6.40%	37	11.28%	80	24.39%
Average	Parole	5,999	520	8.66%	1,248	20.80%	2,652	44.20%
	Discharge	187	8	4.27%	16	8.55%	43	22.99%



# Recidivism by Return Type

**Table 3** illustrates return rates by type of release. Return categories include parole violators with a new sentence (i.e., parolee who acquires a new conviction while under parole supervision), a technical violator (violation of parole as a result of a technical condition versus a criminal offense) and discharged-reconviction (a discharged inmate who has been convicted of a new criminal offense). CY04-06 does not reflect inmates returning to the ADC with technical violations because they were being sentenced to the Omega Technical Parole Violators Center. For ADC, a return to prison for a parole violation with a new sentence is the most prevalent form of recidivism, while a technical violation while on parole is secondary. Although a new conviction may also have a technical violation attached, the new conviction will supersede the technical violation in most cases, making the new conviction the primary reason for returning to prison. Over the 10-year period examined here, inmates who returned to ADC after release most often did so pursuant a new sentence.

<b>TABLE 3. RECIDIVISM RATES BY RETURN TYPE: 2004 – 2013</b>								
Year	Return Type	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo %	1 Year Returns	1 Year %	3 Year Returns	3 Year %
2004	PV/New Sent.	6,244	686	10.99%	1,341	21.48%	2,535	40.60%
	Discharge - Reconviction		12	0.19%	36	0.58%	237	3.80%
2005	PV/New Sent.	5,657	407	7.19%	999	17.66%	2,120	37.48%
	Discharge - Reconviction		11	0.19%	37	0.65%	224	3.96%
2006	PV/New Sent.	5,505	346	6.29%	918	16.68%	1,868	33.93%
	Discharge - Reconviction		9	0.16%	25	0.45%	192	3.49%
2007	PV/New Sent.	5,783	352	6.09%	850	14.70%	1,708	29.53%
	PV/Technical		1	0.02%	10	0.17%	454	7.85%
	Discharge - Reconviction		6	0.10%	21	0.36%	168	2.91%
2008	PV/New Sent.	6,305	345	5.47%	818	12.97%	1,732	27.47%
	PV/Technical		122	1.93%	427	6.77%	925	14.67%
	Discharge - Reconviction		8	0.13%	30	0.48%	174	2.76%
2009	PV/New Sent.	6,585	403	6.12%	911	13.83%	1,665	25.28%
	PV/Technical		138	2.10%	404	6.14%	916	13.91%
	Discharge - Reconviction		6	0.09%	28	0.43%	161	2.44%
2010	PV/New Sent.	6,198	445	7.18%	835	13.47%	1,700	27.43%
	PV/Technical		123	1.98%	367	5.92%	946	15.26%
	Discharge - Reconviction		4	0.06%	11	0.18%	34	0.55%
2011	PV/New Sent.	6,859	293	4.27%	675	9.84%	2,065	30.11%
	PV/Technical		143	2.08%	515	7.51%	1,215	17.71%
	Discharge - Reconviction		4	0.06%	10	0.15%	28	0.41%
2012	PV/New Sent.	6,254	241	3.85%	818	13.08%	2,210	35.34%
	PV/Technical		223	3.57%	555	8.87%	944	15.09%
	Discharge - Reconviction		20	0.32%	33	0.53%	87	1.39%
2013	PV/New Sent.	6,472	726	11.21%	1,512	23.36%	2,823	43.61%
	PV/Technical		182	2.81%	416	6.42%	754	11.65%
	Discharge - Reconviction		21	0.32%	37	0.57%	80	1.23%

The increased rate of parolee's returning to the ADC due to Technical Violations pushed the overall recidivism rate to 56%. An alternative to incarceration for Technical Violators would have resulted in an overall recidivism rate of 45% for the 2013 Release Cohorts.



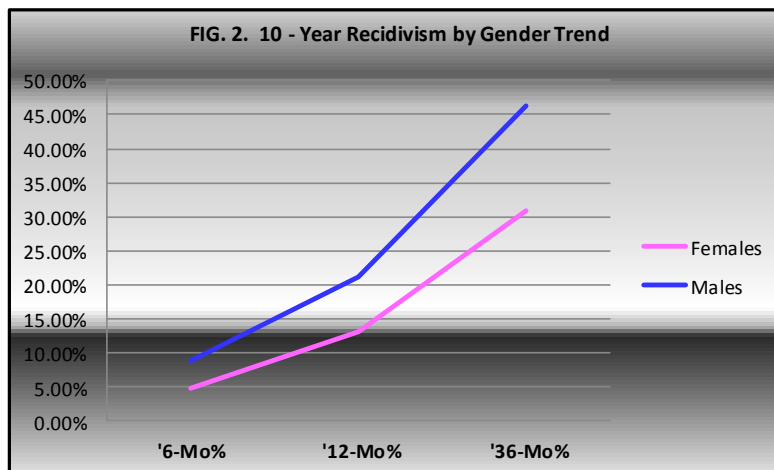


# Recidivism by Gender

**Table 4** displays recidivism rates by gender. Table 4 shows that increases in releases for both genders have occurred over the past 10 years. Male inmates have consistently returned to prison at a higher rate than female inmates in Arkansas. 57.65% of male inmates released in 2013 returned to the ADC versus 48.21% of female inmates. The three-year recidivism rate shows a larger percentage of males returning to prison as compared to females. While male inmates have demonstrated higher recidivism rates than females overall, recidivism for female inmates has seen greater growth over the years.

Year	Gender	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Year Returns	1 Year %	3 Year Returns	3 Year %
2004	Female	551	31	5.60%	56	10.20%	139	25.20%
	Male	5,693	667	11.80%	1,321	23.20%	2,633	46.20%
2005	Female	534	15	2.80%	44	8.20%	123	23.00%
	Male	5,124	403	7.90%	992	19.40%	2,221	43.30%
2006	Female	614	18	2.90%	57	9.30%	137	22.30%
	Male	4,891	337	6.90%	886	18.10%	1,923	39.30%
2007	Female	675	21	3.10%	53	7.90%	158	23.40%
	Male	5,783	338	5.80%	828	14.30%	2,172	37.60%
2008	Female	735	27	3.70%	87	11.80%	211	28.70%
	Male	5,570	448	5.00%	1,188	21.30%	2,620	47.00%
2009	Female	755	41	5.40%	99	13.10%	210	27.80%
	Male	5,830	506	8.70%	1,245	21.40%	2,533	43.40%
2010	Female	687	32	4.70%	74	10.80%	214	31.10%
	Male	5,511	540	9.80%	1,139	20.70%	2,466	44.70%
2011	Female	760	24	3.20%	93	12.20%	265	34.90%
	Male	6,099	416	6.80%	1,107	18.20%	3,043	49.90%
2012	Female	649	36	5.55%	146	22.50%	256	39.45%
	Male	5,605	448	7.99%	1,294	23.09%	2,985	53.26%
2013	Female	786	81	10.30%	184	23.40%	379	48.21%
	Male	5,686	848	14.91%	1,781	31.32%	3,278	57.65%
Average	Female	675	33	4.88%	89	13.18%	209	30.96%
	Male	5,579	495	8.87%	1,178	21.11%	2,587	46.37%

<sup>a</sup>All percentages represent the proportion of inmates released within each sub-group (i.e., gender) who returned in the given timeframe.



33 or 4.88% of the 675 average number of females released over a 10-year timespan recidivated within 6 months, while 13.18% or 89 returned within 12 months; The average 3-year recidivism rate for females over 10-years was 30.96%

495 or 8.87% of the 5,579 average number of males released over a 10-year timespan recidivated within 6 months, while 21.11% or 1,178 returned within 12 months; The average 3-year recidivism rate for males over 10-years was 46.37%





# Recidivism by Race

**Table 5** illustrates recidivism rates by race. Recidivism rates were based on six racial groups: Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Native American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island. The ADC population consists primarily of Black and White inmates, while Hispanic, Asian, Native American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island inmates account for only a small percentage of the overall population. In this report, inmates who reported being Asian, Native American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island were collapsed into one group, ‘Other’. For those released in 2013, 57.20% of White inmates returned to prison within 3 years, compared to 57.01% of Black inmates, 36.12% of Hispanic inmates and 56.71% of inmates in the ‘Other’ category.

TABLE 5. RECIDIVISM RATES BY RACE: 2004 – 2013								
Year	Race	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Year Returns	1 Year %	3 Year Returns	3 Year %
2004	Black	2,711	255	9.40%	573	21.10%	1,260	46.50%
	White	3,450	432	12.50%	786	22.80%	1,483	43.00%
	Hispanic	64	10	15.60%	14	21.90%	24	37.50%
	Other	19	1	5.30%	4	21.10%	5	26.30%
2005	Black	2,285	167	7.30%	455	19.90%	1,064	46.60%
	White	3,273	241	7.40%	563	17.20%	1,248	38.10%
	Hispanic	70	6	8.60%	11	15.70%	22	31.40%
	Other	30	4	13.30%	7	23.30%	10	33.30%
2006	Black	2,304	144	6.30%	396	17.20%	925	40.10%
	White	3,064	200	6.50%	533	17.40%	1,102	36.00%
	Hispanic	115	10	8.70%	12	10.40%	29	25.20%
	Other	22	1	4.50%	2	9.10%	4	18.20%
2007	Black	2,374	159	6.70%	403	17.00%	1,057	44.50%
	White	3,216	185	5.80%	453	14.10%	1,223	38.00%
	Hispanic	155	12	7.70%	18	11.60%	34	21.90%
	Other	38	3	7.90%	7	18.40%	16	42.10%
2008	Black	2,607	200	7.70%	535	20.50%	1,235	47.40%
	White	3,419	259	7.60%	702	20.50%	1,524	44.60%
	Hispanic	247	11	4.50%	26	10.50%	53	21.50%
	Other	32	5	15.60%	12	37.50%	19	59.40%
2009	Black	2,641	207	7.80%	509	19.30%	1,128	42.70%
	White	3,694	319	8.60%	795	21.50%	1,553	42.00%
	Hispanic	213	15	7.00%	27	12.70%	41	19.20%
	Other	37	5	13.50%	12	32.40%	20	54.10%
2010	Black	2,540	205	8.10%	464	18.30%	1,101	43.30%
	White	3,402	345	10.10%	711	20.90%	1,513	44.50%
	Hispanic	210	17	8.10%	29	13.80%	46	21.90%
	Other	46	5	10.70%	10	21.70%	20	43.50%
2011	Black	2,656	158	5.90%	431	16.20%	1,311	49.40%
	White	3,924	264	6.70%	728	18.60%	1,906	48.60%
	Hispanic	225	11	4.90%	30	13.30%	65	28.90%
	Other	54	7	13.00%	11	20.40%	26	48.10%
2012	Black	2,266	148	6.53%	484	21.36%	1,229	54.24%
	White	3,721	317	8.52%	881	23.68%	1,931	51.89%
	Hispanic	205	12	5.85%	26	12.68%	53	25.85%
	Other	62	7	11.29%	15	24.19%	28	45.16%
2013	Black	2,396	314	13.11%	689	28.75%	1,366	57.01%
	White	3,818	578	15.13%	1,215	31.82%	2,184	57.20%
	Hispanic	191	23	12.04%	38	19.89%	69	36.12%
	Other	67	14	20.89%	23	34.32%	38	56.71%



# Age at Release

Tables 6 & 7 display recidivism rates as they varied by age group for inmates released from the ADC in 2013. Also, prior research has consistently found an inverse relationship between age and recidivism and the data reported here are consistent with those findings. As the age of the inmate increased, the prevalence of recidivism decreased.

**TABLE 6. RECIDIVISM RATES BY AGE: 2013**

Age Group	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Year Returns	1 Year %	3 Year Returns	3 Year %
<=17	4	2	50.00%	3	75.00%	4	100.00%
18 – 24	937	196	20.91%	386	41.19%	654	69.79%
25 – 34	2,526	406	16.07%	863	34.16%	1,546	61.20%
35 – 44	1,647	203	12.32%	432	26.22%	871	52.88%
45 – 54	1,013	91	8.98%	228	22.50%	475	46.89%
55 – 64	299	29	9.69%	48	16.05%	99	33.11%
65+	46	2	4.34%	5	10.86%	8	17.39%

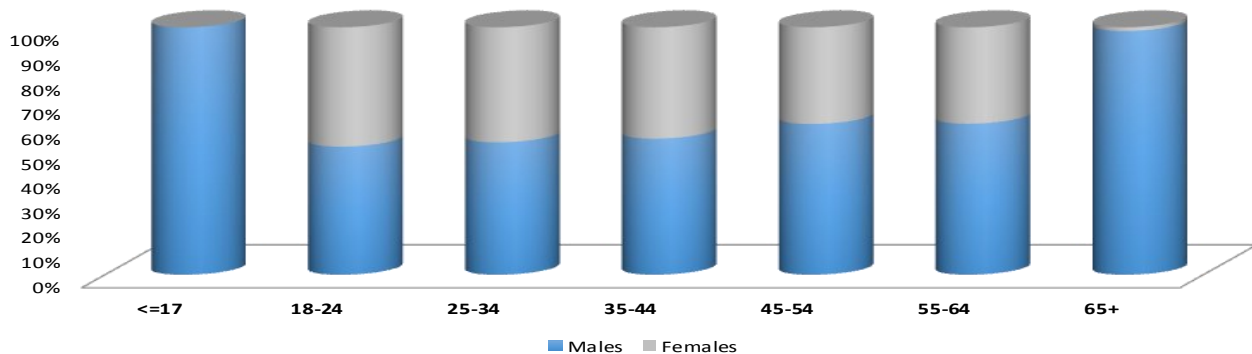
*There was considerable variation between age groups among recidivist.*

**TABLE 7. RECIDIVISM RATES BY GENDER BY AGE: 2013**

Age Group	Gender	Total Rel.	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Yr. Returns	1 Yr. %	3 Yr. Returns	3 Yr. %
<=17	Male	4	2	50.00%	3	75.00%	4	100.00%
	Female	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
18 – 24	Male	862	183	21.22%	357	41.41%	605	70.18%
	Female	75	13	17.33%	29	38.66%	49	65.33%
25 – 34	Male	2,195	370	16.85%	775	35.30%	1,367	62.27%
	Female	331	36	10.87%	88	26.58%	179	54.07%
35 – 44	Male	1,415	175	12.36%	384	27.13%	768	54.27%
	Female	232	28	12.06%	48	20.68%	103	44.39%
45 – 54	Male	892	99	11.09%	238	26.68%	483	54.14%
	Female	121	2	1.65%	15	12.39%	42	34.71%
55 – 64	Male	276	27	9.78%	45	16.30%	94	34.05%
	Female	23	2	8.69%	3	13.04%	5	21.73%
65+	Male	42	2	4.76%	4	9.52%	7	16.66%
	Female	4	0	0.00%	1	0.25%	1	0.25%

*For both male and female the age cohort of 18 – 24 demonstrated the highest recidivism rates.*

**FIG. 3. Recidivism by Gender by Age**

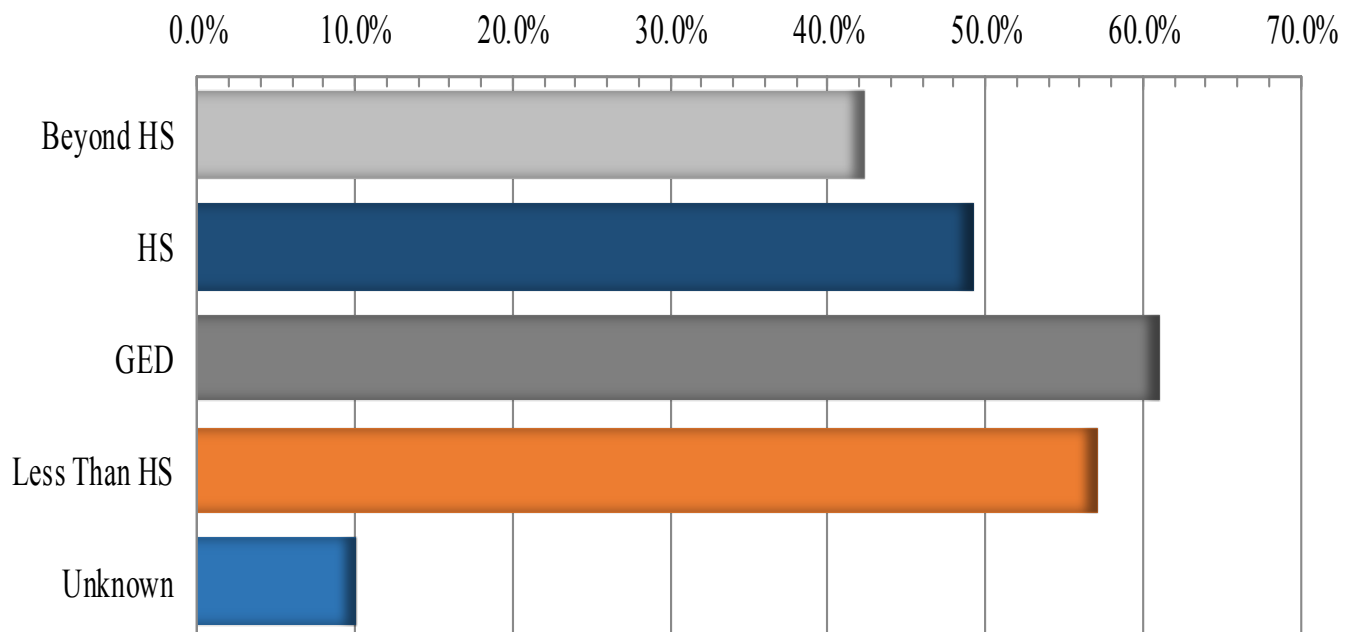




# Education Level at Release

**Figure 4** illustrates recidivism rates by education level of the inmates released in 2013. The goal of inmate education is to prepare them for success post-release which benefits society and is cost-effective for the state. It also aids in the rehabilitative mission of the ADC by providing programs to strengthen the work ethic. As it applies to inmates leaving correctional facilities, greater educational attainment has been associated with lower recidivism rates. The results of this study indicate differently. For ADC inmates released in 2013, those with a GED demonstrated the highest rate of recidivism at 61%, followed by those with less than a high school degree or GED equivalent at 57%. This seemingly contradictory finding may be due to academic education became mandatory for all ADC inmates who do not have a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate, resulting in a greater number of inmates being released with a GED than with a high school education. Other factors that have a stronger influence on the likelihood of recidivism such as a lack of employment opportunities, may be responsible for a greater number of inmates returning to prison from this larger subgroup of the release cohort. It is also possible that certain negative stigma associated with the GED in society create barriers to employment in the community, and by extension, successful reentry. Findings of reduced recidivism rates for those with a high school education and beyond are harmonious with previous research.

**Fig. 4. Recidivism Rates by Education Level**



	Unknown	Less Than HS	GED	HS	Beyond HS
Total Releases	10	1,314	3,413	1,309	426
Total Returns	1	749	2,083	644	180
3 Year Return Rate	10.00%	57.00%	61.03%	49.20%	42.25%



## Recidivism by Program/Class

**Table 8** exhibits recidivism rate variation by program and class incarceration. This data reflects unique program and class completions, not unique inmates (e.g., an inmate who completed Anger Management, Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse Treatment are counted once in the statistics for Anger Management, once in Domestic Violence and once in Substance Abuse Treatment). Furthermore, in order to narrow the examination to program and class completions with the most likelihood of influencing recidivism, only completions that occurred within the 36 months prior to release were counted. Programs and classes are displayed in descending order by recidivism rate. It is also important to note that some program/class recidivism rates were calculated based on release cohorts of less than 10 inmates.

**TABLE 8. RECIDIVISM RATES BY PROGRAM COMPLETION\***

Program/Class	Total Releases	6 Mo. Returns	6 Mo. %	1 Yr. Returns	1 Yr. %	3 Yr. Returns	3 Yr. %
Thinking Errors Group	2,098	270	12.87%	650	30.98%	1,272	60.62%
Domestic Violence	410	50	12.19%	125	30.48%	245	59.75%
Anger Management	5,057	629	12.43%	1,525	30.16%	2,996	59.24%
Substance Abuse Treatment (SATP)	898	94	10.46%	244	27.17%	523	58.24%
Graduate Equivalent Diploma (GED)	635	75	11.81%	167	26.29%	365	57.48%
Stress Management	302	28	9.27%	68	22.51%	173	57.28%
Parenting	930	99	10.64%	239	25.69%	525	56.45%
Pre Release	275	32	11.63%	78	28.36%	155	56.36%
Substance Abuse Education Program	1,231	134	10.88%	342	27.78%	693	56.29%
Therapeutic Community (TC)	272	22	8.08%	70	25.73%	151	55.51%
Principal Application	45	2	4.44%	7	15.55%	23	51.11%
Communication Skills	152	14	9.21%	34	22.36%	74	48.68%
Reduce Sex Victimization Program (RSVP)	162	10	6.17%	37	22.83%	71	43.82%
Advanced Principles & Applications for Life (APAL)	7	0	0.00%	1	14.28%	3	42.86%
Interchange Freedom Initiative	17	0	0.00%	4	23.52%	7	41.17%
Sex Offender Female Treatment	5	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	40.00%
Pathway To Freedom	28	0	0.00%	3	10.71%	11	39.28%

\*It is important to note that while the operationalization used for this analysis was consistent with that used throughout this study regardless of the return type or return offense, different programs have previously defined recidivism in different ways.

# Recidivism Rate By Military History

In a special report released in 2015 by U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics, an estimated 181,500 veterans (8% of all inmates in state and federal prison and local jails excluding military operated facilities) were serving time in correctional facilities. Research shows that veterans are likely to be incarcerated due to drugs, alcohol, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) issues, difficulty adjusting to civilian life and economic disadvantages. In the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC), inmates with a military history account for approximately 7% of the ADC jurisdictional count. Table 9 reports findings from an analysis of recidivism rate variation as a function of military background characteristics. The three-year recidivism rate shows a larger percentage of males returning to prison as compared to females. Average age 33, average months out 13. In recognition of the special needs of this population, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) program is designed to promote success and prevent homelessness among veterans returning to the community after incarceration. The Arkansas Department of Correction has partnered with the VA and currently has a HCRV program specialist who provides services to veterans who are nearing release.

**Table 9. Recidivism Rates by Military History**

Attribute	Releases	6 Mo. Ret.	6 Mo. %	1 Yr. Ret.	1 Yr. %	3 Yr. Ret.	3 Yr. %
<b>Military</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>14.86%</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>28.21%</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>50.88%</b>
War Veteran	102	13	12.74%	25	24.50%	49	48.03%
Non-War Veteran	295	46	15.59%	87	29.49%	153	51.86%
Positive Separation	366	54	14.75%	100	27.32%	186	50.81%
Negative Separation	31	5	16.13%	12	38.70%	16	51.61%
Army National Guard	57	14	24.56%	23	40.35%	38	66.66%
Army Reserve	10	0	0.00%	1	10.00%	6	60.00%
Marines	43	1	2.33%	12	27.90%	25	58.13%
Army	176	35	19.88%	56	31.81%	87	49.43%
Navy	68	6	8.82%	15	22.05%	32	47.05%
Air National Guard	5	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	40.00%
Air Force	28	3	10.71%	4	14.28%	10	35.71%
Marine Reserve	4	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	25.00%
Coast Guard	5	0	0.00%	1	20.00%	1	20.00%
More Than One	1	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Non-Military</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>14.32%</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>30.50%</b>	<b>3,455</b>	<b>56.87%</b>





## Violent vs. Non-Violent Offenders

**Figure 5** illustrates recidivism patterns for inmates convicted of violent (as defined by A.C.A. 5-4-501(c)(2) & 5-4-501(d)(2) effective in 2013) crimes as compared to those convicted of non-violent crimes.

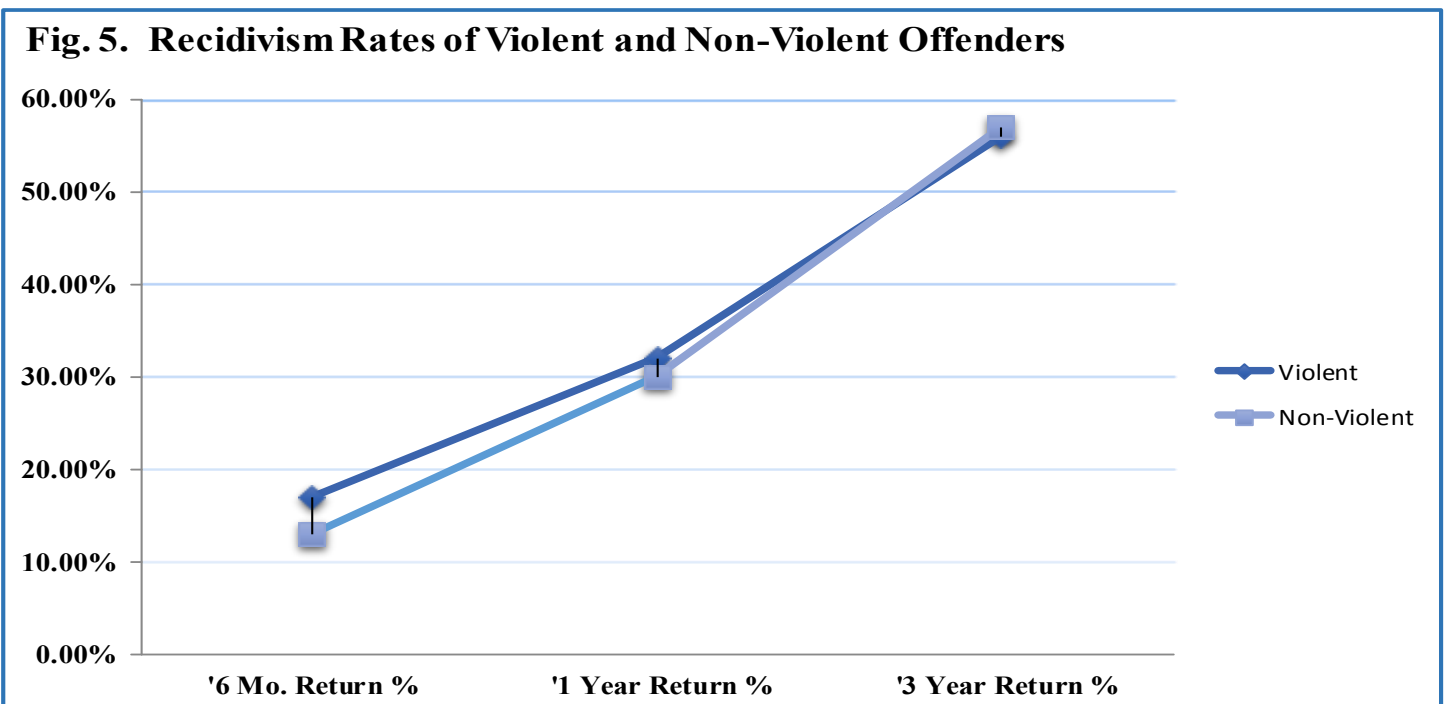
The most frequently identified non-violent crimes involve:

- ◆ Manufacture/Delivery/Possession/Control Substance
- ◆ Theft of Property
- ◆ Advertise Drug Paraphernalia
- ◆ Residential Burglary
- ◆ Possession Firearm Certain Person

The most frequently identified violent crimes involve:

- ◆ Robbery
- ◆ Battery-2nd Degree
- ◆ Aggravated Assault
- ◆ Terroristic Threatening
- ◆ Sexual Assault

Of the 6,472 inmates that were released in 2013, 1,982 had committed a violent offense and 4,490 had committed a non-violent offense. **1,108 (56%)** of those convicted of a violent offense returned within three years and **2,549 (57%)** of those convicted of a non-violent offense returned within three years. This study reflects that non-violent offenders returned to re-incarceration at a scantily higher rate than violent offenders.



# Recidivism Rates by Offense of Incarceration: 2013

**Table 10** displays 3-year recidivism rates by offense of conviction in descending order by 3-year recidivism rate. There are important operationalization details to note with regards to the data displayed here. Displayed in Table 10 is the recidivism data associated with the various offenses for which inmates were incarcerated at the time they were released in 2013. This data represents unique offenses, not unique inmates, who may have been incarcerated for multiple offenses. An inmate who was incarcerated on both Theft of Property (i.e., 1001-Theft of Property) and Residential Burglary (i.e., 0658-Residential Burglary), for example, would be counted once under each offense. An inmate who was incarcerated on two counts of rape, on the other hand, would be counted once under 0501 - Rape. In order to examine comparable recidivism rates as they vary by offense, offenses represented by fewer than 20 releases are omitted from Table 10.

**TABLE 10. RECIDIVISM RATES BY OFFENSE OF INCARCERATION: 2013**

Release Offense	Count	6 Mo.	6 Mo. %	1 Yr.	1 Yr. %	3 Yr.	3 Yr. %
1706 - Escape-2nd Degree	33	7	21.21%	16	48.48%	28	84.85%
1269 - Theft of Property (Firearm) < \$2,000	20	4	20.00%	10	50.00%	16	80.00%
1284 - Theft By Receiving > \$5,000 < \$25,000	52	10	19.23%	24	46.15%	40	76.92%
1286 - Theft by Receiving > \$1,000 <= \$5,000	115	24	20.87%	54	46.96%	88	76.52%
1317 - Criminal Mischief-1st Degree (Damage > \$1,000 <= \$5,000)	28	5	17.86%	11	39.29%	21	75.00%
1302 - Breaking And Entering	524	115	21.95%	230	43.89%	390	74.43%
1268 - Theft of Property >= \$1,000 < \$5,000	202	40	19.80%	83	41.09%	150	74.26%
0406 - Agg. Assault On Corr. Employee	23	6	26.09%	11	47.83%	17	73.91%
0659 - Commercial Burglary	320	62	19.38%	125	39.06%	236	73.75%
1270 - Theft of Property (Credit/Debit Card)	41	11	26.83%	23	56.10%	30	73.17%
1342 - Poss Cont Sub Sched I,II Meth Cocaine < 2g	271	68	25.09%	125	46.13%	198	73.06%
0658 - Residential Burglary	769	144	18.80%	301	39.30%	546	71.28%
1004 - Theft By Receiving	463	81	17.49%	181	39.09%	324	69.98%
1711 - Furnishing Prohib. Articles	59	9	15.25%	24	40.68%	41	69.49%
1713 - Fleeing	212	44	20.75%	90	42.45%	147	69.34%
2912 - Possession Of Defaced Firearm	26	9	34.62%	12	46.15%	18	69.23%
0708 - Domestic Battering-3rd Degree	185	44	23.78%	80	43.24%	128	69.19%
1343 - Poss Cont Sub Sched I,II Meth Cocaine => 2g < 10g	55	16	29.09%	25	45.45%	38	69.09%
1462 - Poss Drug Paraphernalia Man Meth Cocaine	114	18	15.79%	42	36.84%	78	68.42%
0403 - Aggravated Assault	264	54	20.45%	101	38.26%	180	68.18%
2902 - Criminal Use Prohibited Weapon	28	5	17.86%	11	39.29%	19	67.86%
1101 - Forgery	478	97	20.29%	192	40.17%	324	67.78%
1263 - Theft of Property >=\$5,000 < \$25,000	90	20	22.22%	36	40.00%	61	67.78%
1205 - Criminal Mischief-1st Degree	145	26	17.93%	55	37.93%	97	66.90%
0704 - Agg. Assault On Family/Household	77	18	23.38%	31	40.26%	51	66.23%
1461 - Poss Drug Paraphernalia Meth Cocaine	230	40	17.39%	90	39.13%	152	66.09%
1104 - Fraudulent Use Of Credit Card	106	17	16.04%	42	39.62%	70	66.04%
1001 - Theft Of Property	1043	182	17.45%	393	37.68%	688	65.96%
1345 - Poss Cont Sub Sched III => Excluding Meth Cocaine <2g	52	12	23.08%	23	44.23%	34	65.38%



TABLE 10. RECIDIVISM RATES BY OFFENSE OF INCARCERATION: 2013							
Release Offense	Count	6 Mo.	6 Mo%	1 Yr.	1 Yr.%	3 Yr.	3 Yr.%
1712 - Failure To Appear	269	46	17.10%	96	35.69%	174	64.68%
2901 - Poss. Firearm Certain Person	608	110	18.09%	218	35.86%	392	64.47%
0703 - Domestic Battering-2nd Degree	97	14	14.43%	36	37.11%	62	63.92%
0301 - Robbery	327	63	19.27%	117	35.78%	208	63.61%
3001 - Criminal Attempt	297	50	16.84%	105	35.35%	188	63.30%
0402 - Battery-2nd Degree	277	54	19.49%	101	36.46%	174	62.82%
0702 - Domestic Battering-1st Degree	24	6	25.00%	8	33.33%	15	62.50%
1362 - Poss W Purpose Del Meth Cocaine < 2g	42	5	11.90%	16	38.10%	26	61.90%
0404 - Terroristic Threatening	232	44	18.97%	79	34.05%	139	59.91%
1365 - Deliver Meth Cocaine < 2g	130	20	15.38%	47	36.15%	76	58.46%
1439 - Poss W Purp Del Cont Sub Sched VI > 14g < 4oz	45	5	11.11%	13	28.89%	26	57.78%
6503 - Fail To Stop Acc. W/Inj/Death	40	9	22.50%	16	40.00%	23	57.50%
3003 - Criminal Conspiracy	170	26	15.29%	51	30.00%	97	57.06%
2202 - Advertise Drug Paraphernalia	769	107	13.91%	216	28.09%	437	56.83%
0202 - False Imprisonment-1st Degree	37	4	10.81%	10	27.03%	21	56.76%
1287 - Theft by Receiving (Credit/Debit Card)	23	4	17.39%	7	30.43%	13	56.52%
1720 - Fail To Register Child/Sex Off	242	37	15.29%	77	31.82%	134	55.37%
1203 - Arson	31	4	12.90%	7	22.58%	17	54.84%
2203 - Manu/Deliv/Poss Control Subs.	1831	232	12.67%	498	27.20%	1003	54.78%
1113 - Hot Check Violation	118	16	13.56%	35	29.66%	63	53.39%
0801 - Endanger Welfare Minor-1st Dg	45	7	15.56%	15	33.33%	24	53.33%
1363 - Poss W Purpose Del Meth Cocaine => 2g < 10g	53	6	11.32%	19	35.85%	28	52.83%
0405 - Terroristic Act	38	7	18.42%	12	31.58%	20	52.63%
0201 - Kidnapping	29	4	13.79%	9	31.03%	15	51.72%
1463 - Poss Drug Paraphernalia Man Cont Sub	61	11	18.03%	18	29.51%	31	50.82%
0237 - Tampering With Physical Evid.	24	2	8.33%	4	16.67%	12	50.00%
0705 - Non-Support	64	2	3.13%	13	20.31%	32	50.00%
1259 - Theft of Property > \$25,000	26	5	19.23%	6	23.08%	13	50.00%
1366 - Deliver Meth Cocaine => 2g < 10g	28	2	7.14%	6	21.43%	14	50.00%
2214 - Poss W/I To Manufacture	29	5	17.24%	7	24.14%	14	48.28%
8004 - Simultaneous Poss Of Drugs/Firearm	98	14	14.29%	25	25.51%	46	46.94%
0302 - Aggravated Robbery	109	16	14.68%	30	27.52%	49	44.95%
2301 - Viol Of Omb DWI Act 4th Offens	94	6	6.38%	18	19.15%	42	44.68%
0401 - Battery-1st Degree	103	6	5.83%	17	16.50%	46	44.66%
1386 - Deliver Cont Sub Sched I,II Excl Meth Cocaine < 2g	33	2	6.06%	7	21.21%	14	42.42%
0513 - Sexual Assault	224	29	12.95%	56	25.00%	94	41.96%
0103 - Murder-2nd Degree	39	4	10.26%	7	17.95%	16	41.03%
0501 - Rape	91	10	10.99%	21	23.08%	36	39.56%
0830 - Sexual Indecency With A Child	33	3	9.09%	6	18.18%	13	39.39%
1440 - Poss W Purp Del Cont Sub Sched VI => 4 oz < 25 lbs	42	5	11.90%	10	23.81%	16	38.10%
0104 - Manslaughter	40	2	5.00%	5	12.50%	15	37.50%
0504 - Sexual Abuse-1st Degree	24	5	20.83%	8	33.33%	9	37.50%
2201 - Failure To Keep Records Dist Drg	110	6	5.45%	19	17.27%	40	36.36%
0102 - Murder-1st Degree	32	3	9.38%	6	18.75%	11	34.38%
1444 - Deliver Cont Sub Sched VI > 14g < 4 oz	20	0	0.00%	3	15.00%	6	30.00%

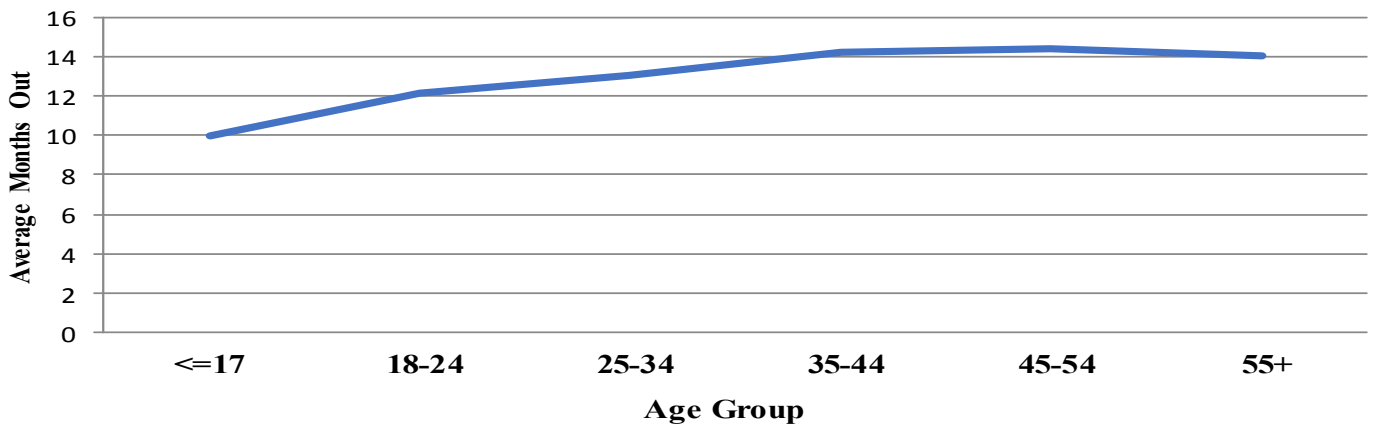


# Time to Recidivate

Reducing recidivism is not just a concern for those who return from prison but it is also critical to strengthening households and the economy. The time initially following parole or discharge present the greatest challenges for inmates attempting to successfully reenter society. Prisoners often rely on their families and friends for housing and support after they are released. Released prisoners also have a hard time finding and maintaining employment in the early months of reentry. In addition to the traditional binary examination of recidivism, an analysis was also conducted of the length of time between the date of release and the date of return. Prisoners who are not quickly re-incarcerated are less likely to recidivate. Figure 6 illustrates the average months out for inmates released in 2013 by age category. Figure 7 illustrates that prisoners who returned to incarceration did so the first 17 months, accounting for nearly three-fourths of all the recidivism of the first 3 years. On average, the 2013 recidivist spent 13 months in the community before returning to prison. Compared to the recidivist of the 2011 Study & 2012 Study, the overall recidivist on average spent 17 months in the community in 2011 and 15 months in the community in 2012, before being re-incarcerated which is a decrease of 2 months per year over the last three years.

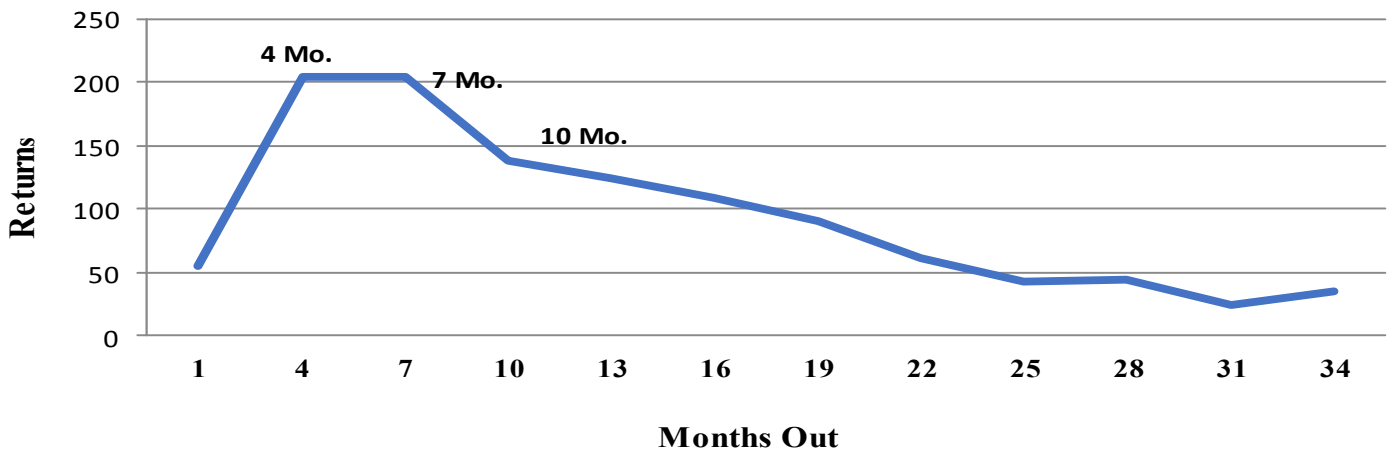
**Fig. 6. Average Months Out-All Inmates**

**Overall Average  
Months Out = 13**



*Please note that these figures only displays data for recidivists from the CY13 release cohorts (n=3,657).*

**Fig. 7. Time to Return**

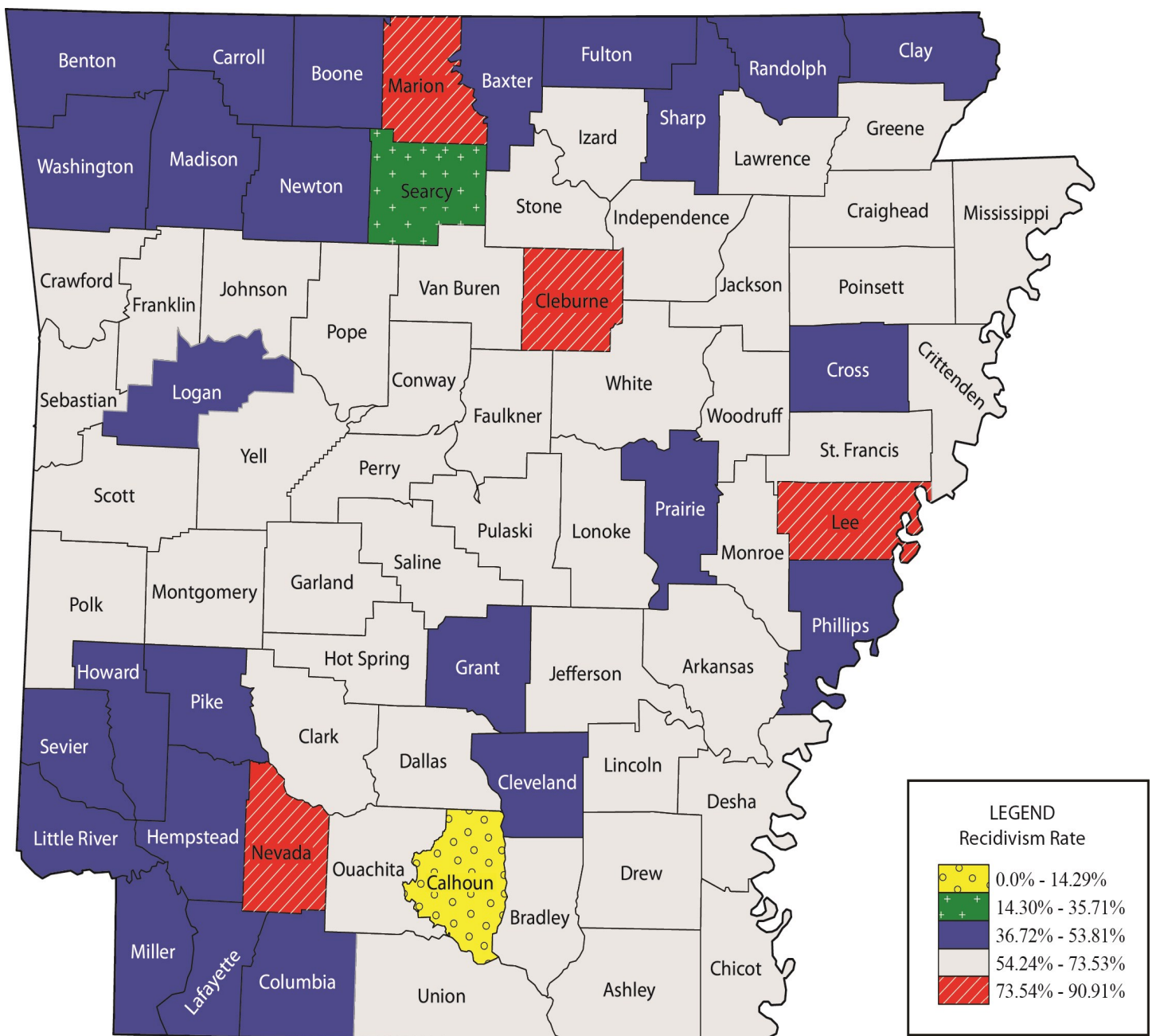




# County of Conviction at Release

**Figure 8** illustrates 3-year recidivism patterns across counties within the State of Arkansas for inmates released in 2013. The reader should use caution when reviewing this figure because it is important to note that some inmates have more than one active sentence in more than one county. Therefore, it is important to note the operationalization used for this analysis; one county of conviction per inmate, using the inmate's sentence with the highest seriousness level. Counties are color-coded from lowest to highest and the Legend Key depicts the rate range. It is further important for the reader to note that some counties (Calhoun, Izard, Lincoln, Marion, Newton, Perry & Woodruff) had a release cohort of 10 or less inmates.

**Fig. 8. Recidivism by County of Conviction**





## Conclusion

Research has frequently shown that there are certain characteristics common among those who recidivate. The objective of this study was to provide insight on the factors that contribute to the recidivism rate in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There were a total of 6,472 inmates released in 2013 and 3,657 inmates returned within three years of release. On average, recidivists spent 13 months in the community before returning to prison. This study also found that parole violators returned to prison most often due to a new sentence (79%), as compared to parolees returning on a technical violation (21%)<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to demographic characteristics that are common among recidivists, these inmates also tended to have the same types of criminal backgrounds. Research has shown that inmates who commit a violent offense are more likely to recidivate. However with this research, this study found that ADC inmates whose original conviction was for a violent offense returned to prison at (56%) compared to non-violent offenders who also return to prison at (57%) within three years of release.

Prior research has shown that there are some community-level characteristics that affect the likelihood of recidivism for inmates. This study tapped into characteristics of the community by examining recidivism rates by county of conviction. Inmates who returned to prison within three years of release most often did so pursuant to an original conviction in counties that were rural and less densely populated; however, there were also highly populated counties that exhibited high recidivism rates.

Overall, the results of this study confirm that inmates released back into the community exhibit certain attributes that may increase the probability of recidivism. For these inmates, the reintegration process can be more difficult as a result of both individual and community characteristics. Inmates, especially parolees, are likely to return to the same impoverished neighborhoods that substantially increase criminal opportunities, limit educational, vocational, and social support services, and weaken personal support networks.

At some point, nearly 87% of all prisoners will return to their communities. Re-entry, a vital component of any successful reintegration process, can include all the activities and programming conducted to prepare inmates to return to society as law-abiding citizens. The success of any program is often dependent upon the willingness of the inmates to capitalize on the opportunities afforded them and their desire to improve their situation; however, some will inevitably end up back in prison. This report demonstrates the importance, and in some cases, large effects of certain factors on re-incarceration rates. These factors must be accounted for when measuring and comparing recidivism rates.

In an effort to reduce recidivism rates, the Arkansas Department of Correction provides various treatment programs, work opportunities, educational programs and vocational training, while providing for public safety and carrying out the mandates of the courts. However, it is important to note that the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders is a process dependent upon collaboration and efforts by all justice system stakeholders.

<sup>1</sup>These rates are based on the total 3-year *parolee* returns (n=3,577, see Table 2, p. 6)